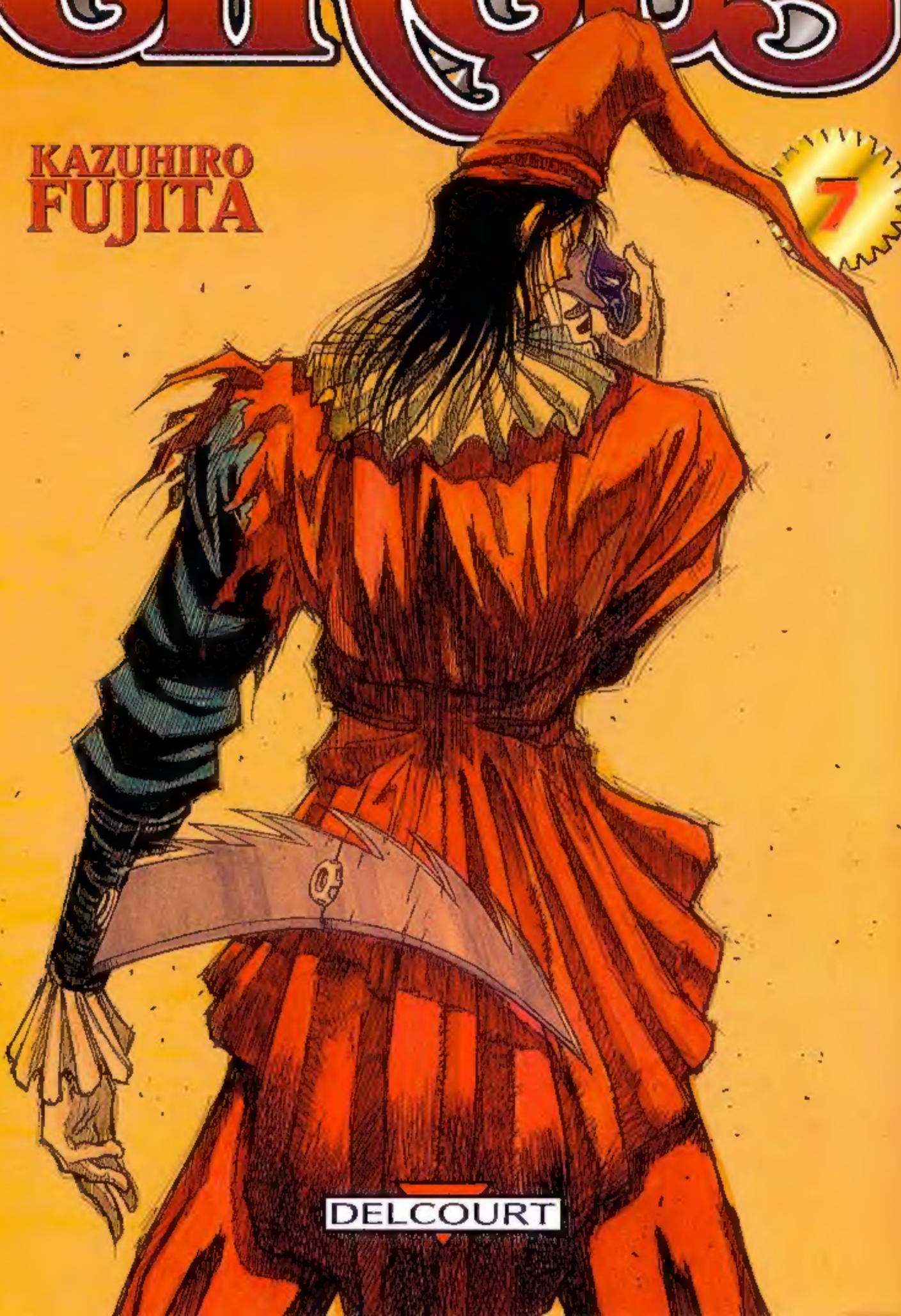
BLACKOUT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

7



DELCOURT

KARAKURI CIRCUS

7

KAZUHIRO FUJITA

★ SUMMARY OF THE PREVIOUS VOLUMES ★

MASARU AND SHIROGANE STARTED A NEW, WANDERING LIFE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE PROBLEMS THAT CAME WITH THE BOY'S HUGE INHERITANCE. THEY FIRST MET THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS, THEN WERE JOINED BY TARANDA LISELOTTE, A BEAST TAMER. DURING THEIR TRAVELS, THEY WERE INVOLVED IN A HOSTAGE SITUATION AND MANAGED TO RESCUE THE HOSTAGES THANKS TO THEIR EXCELLENT TEAMWORK. FOLLOWING THIS EVENT, THE MEMBERS OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WERE ABLE TO SECURE A PLACE FOR THEIR SHOW. HOWEVER, THEY NEEDED TO VISIT THE STRAW CIRCUS TO BORROW SOME EQUIPMENT.
A FOOD POISONING INCIDENT RESULTED IN SHIROGANE PERFORMING IN THEIR SHOW, EVENTUALLY INVOLVING TARANDA AND MASARU AS WELL!
WILL OUR FRIENDS PROVE THEMSELVES WORTHY OF THIS GRAND SPECTACLE?

KARAKURI CIRCUS VOLUME 7

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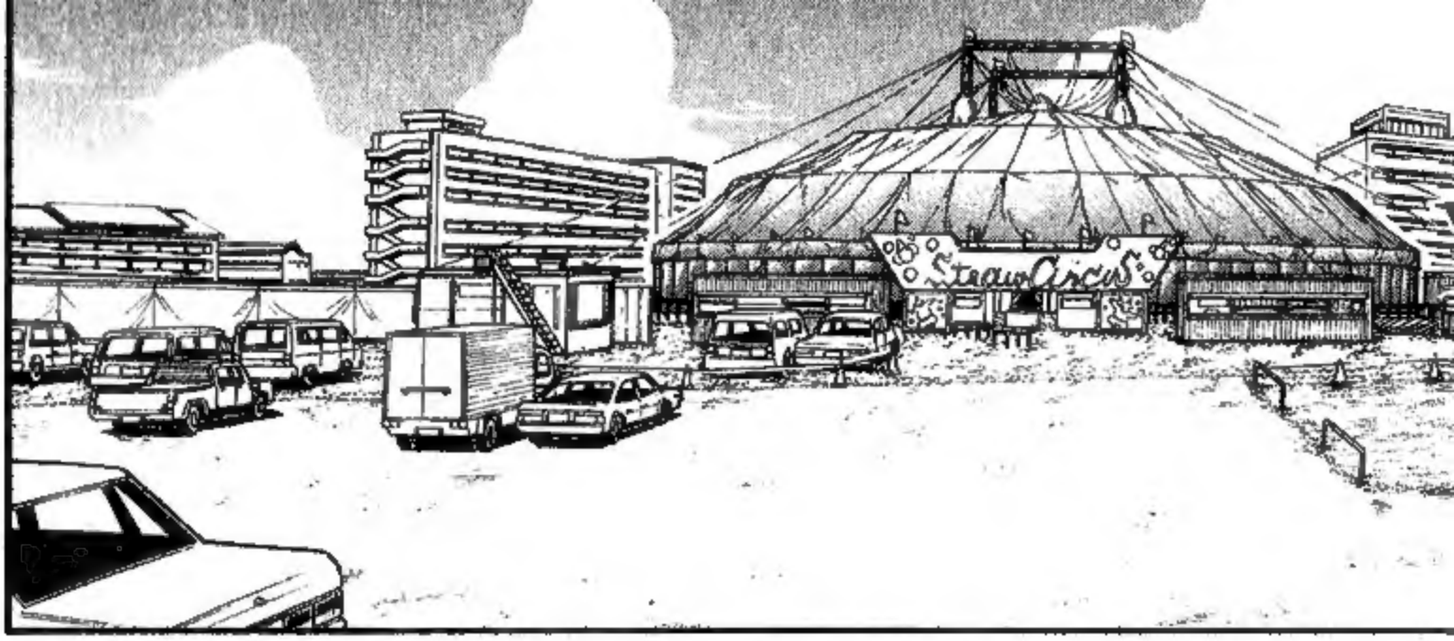
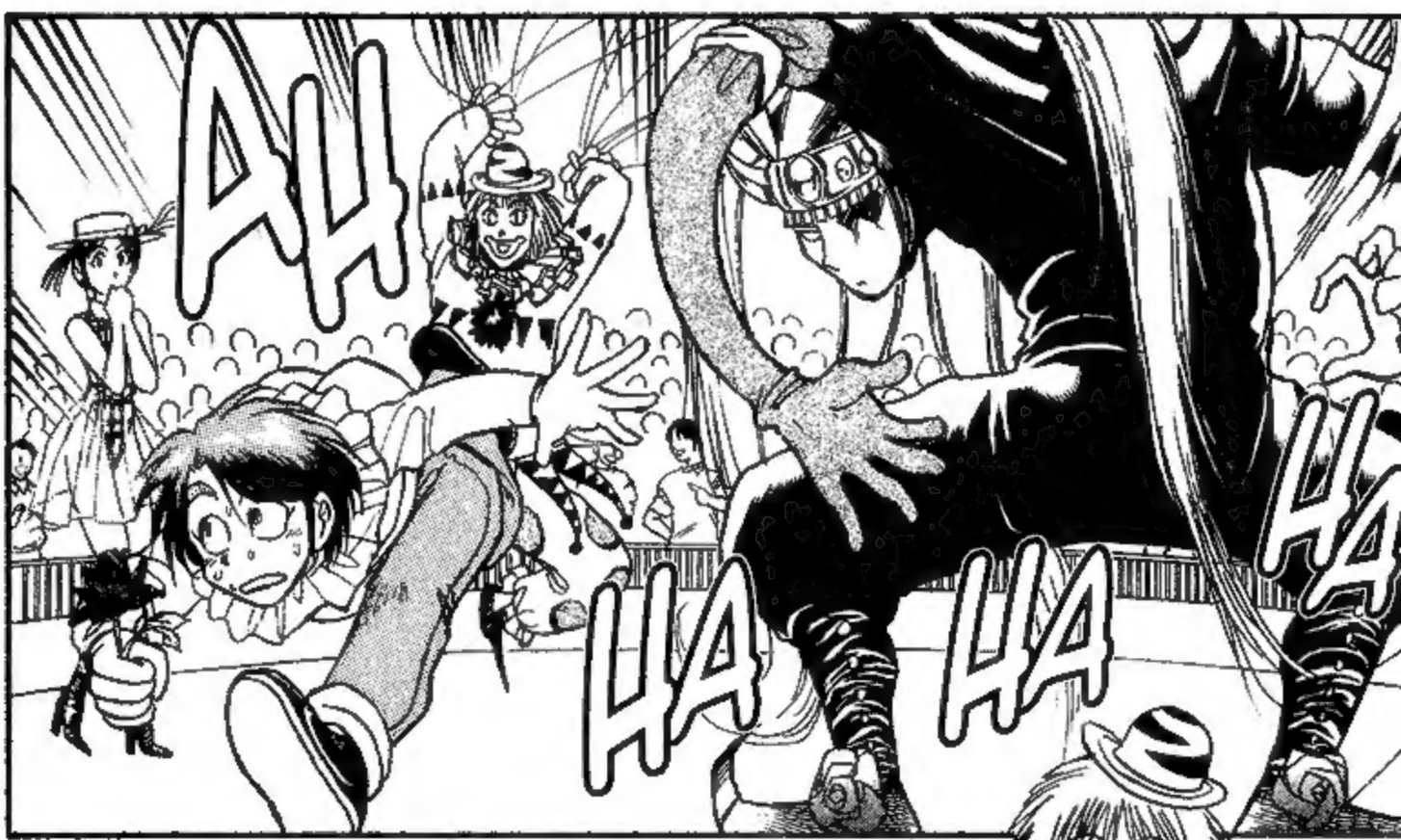
■ KAZUHIRO FUJITA ■

ACT V: CIRCUS * MASARU AT THE CIRCUS - LAST PART


Straw Circus


AH
HA
HA
HA

...WHILE ESCAPING THE WATCHFUL EYE OF HER BIG, DARK-LOOKING BODYGUARD?!
SO, DEAR AUDIENCE, WILL OUR YOUNG LOVER BE ABLE TO GIVE A FLOWER TO HIS BELOVED...
Ou
AHH

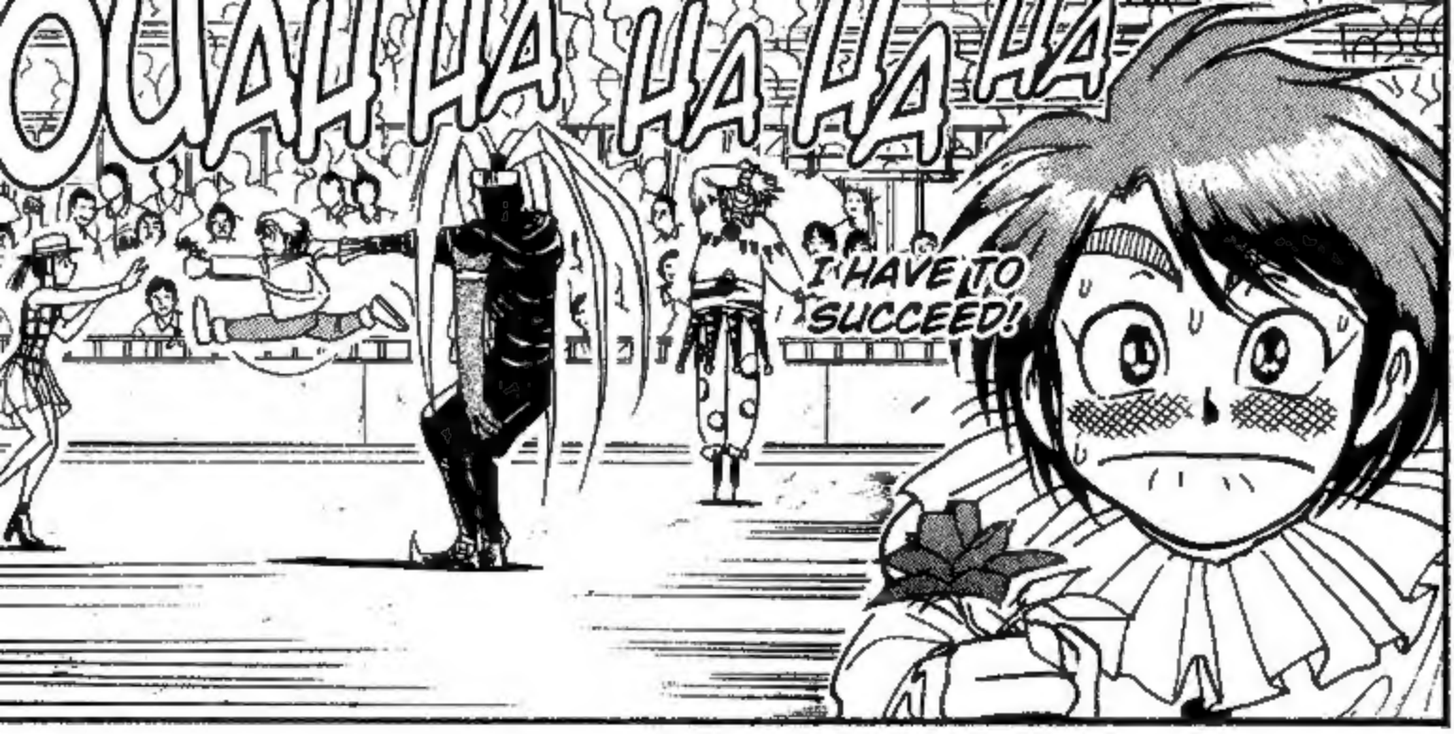
TAN TAN TAN TAN TAN
M?!?
GOOH
THIS IS...
...FOR YOU!
HAHAHAHA
AAAHHH! NOOOOO!

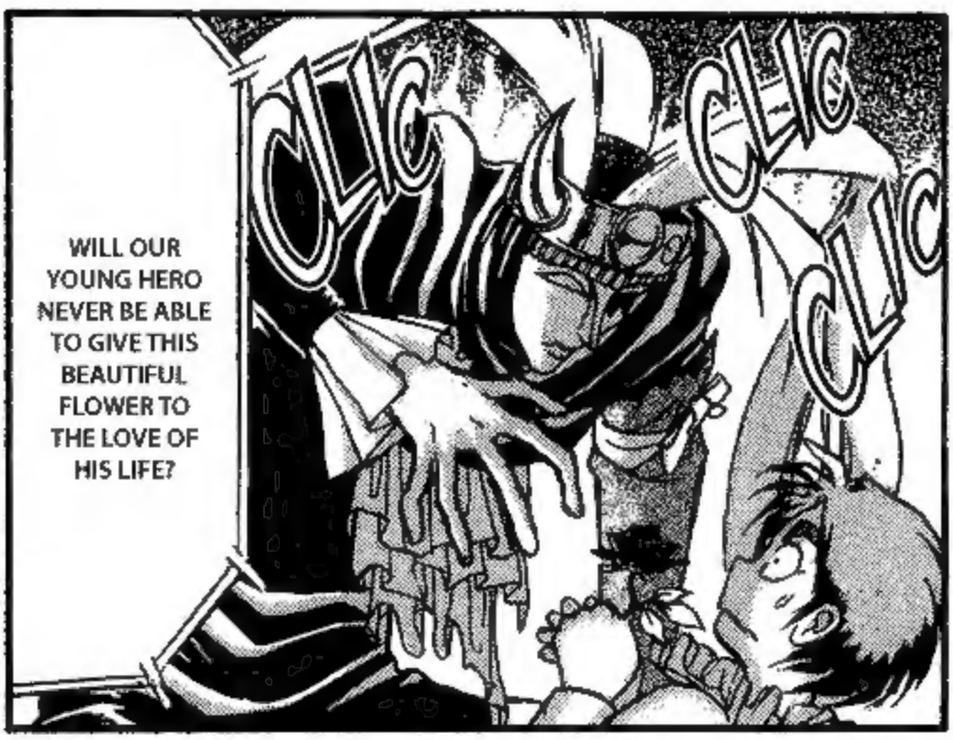
YEAH! YOU'LL MAKE IT!
COME ON, KID! HAVE COURAGE!

BUT NOW...
...THEY'RE LAUGHING!

THEY LOOKED SO SAD...
...BEFORE THE SHOW STARTED.
KOJI AND YUMI ARE LAUGHING TOO!

...WATCHING THIS ACT I'M IN!
THEY'RE LAUGHING...

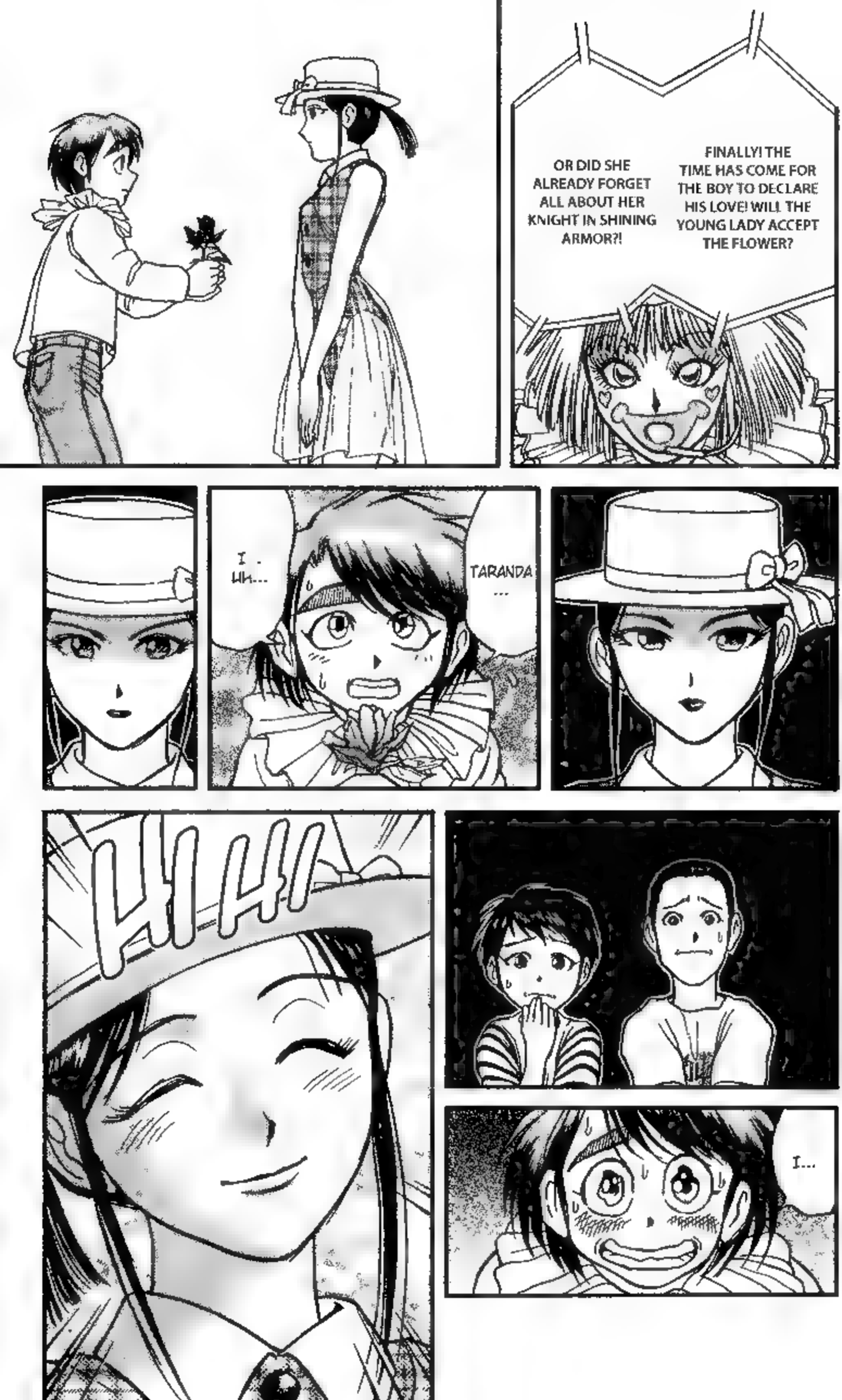

OUAH HA HA HA HA
I HAVE TO SUCCEED!

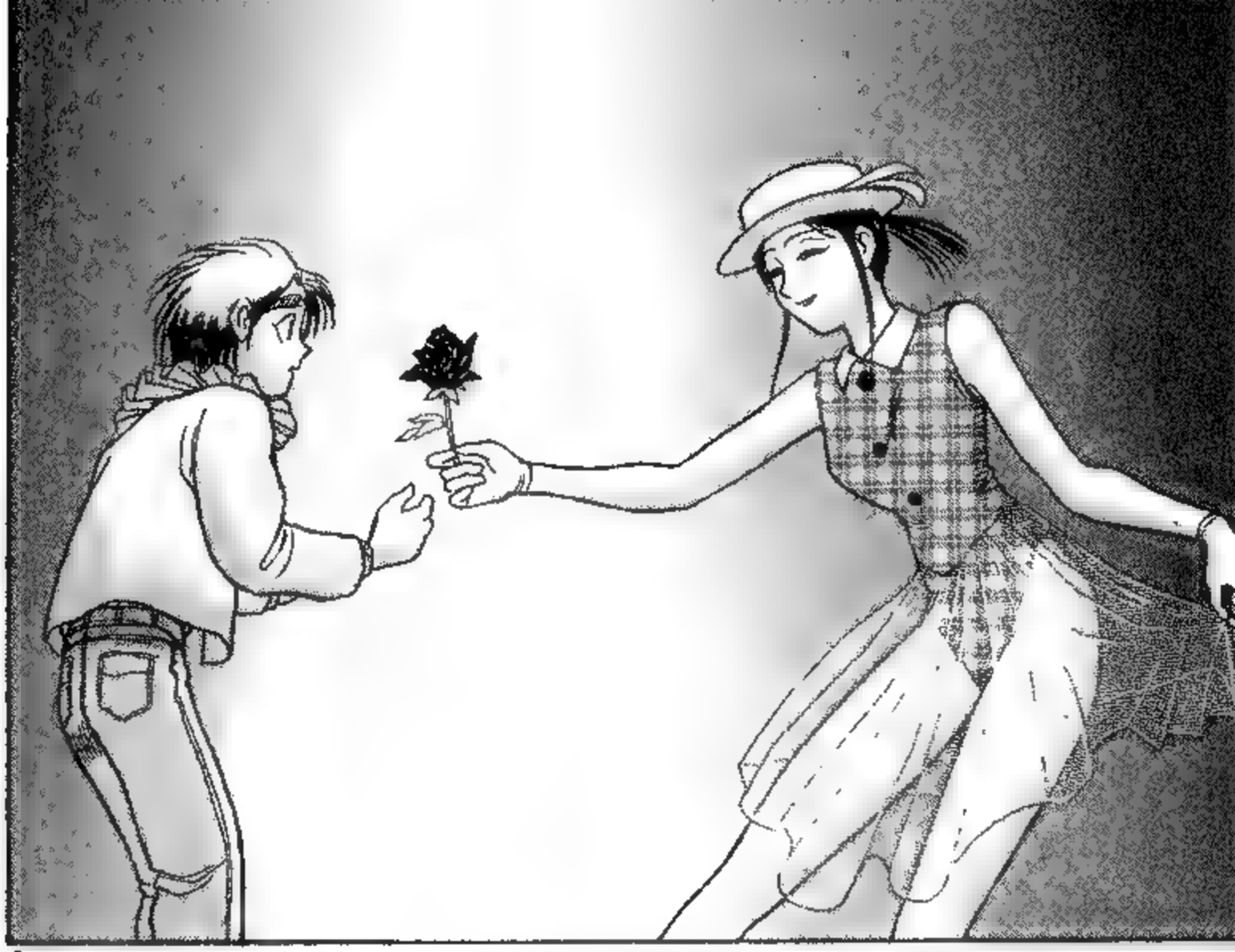

WILL OUR YOUNG HERO NEVER BE ABLE TO GIVE THIS BEAUTIFUL FLOWER TO THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE?
CLIC
CLIC
CLIC

WHAT MISFORTUNE! THE BOY IS TRAPPED!

... DESPITE IT ALL, THE YOUNG LADY WAITS FOR HER LOVE WITH HOPE!
WILL THE FEELINGS OF THE POOR ONCE AGAIN BE THWARTED BY THE MIGHT OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL?!

OUAF
GNAP
GNAP
GNAP
GNAP
OU AF!
OW, OW, OW! THE BODYGUARD IS PANICKING!
HA HA!
HA HA
OUAF
OUAF
OOOH! IT'S INCREDIBLE! THE YOUNG LADY'S DOGS ARE ATTACKING THE BODYGUARD TO HELP THEIR MISTRESS!!!
OUAH!
HA HA HA HA...
AAAHHH! HELP ME!
TON TON TON TON


OR DID SHE ALREADY FORGET ALL ABOUT HER KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR?!
FINALLY! THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE BOY TO DECLARE HIS LOVE! WILL THE YOUNG LADY ACCEPT THE FLOWER?
I - UH...
TARANDA ...
HI HI
I...



THE YOUNG LADY HAS ACCEPTED THE FLOWER AND THE LOVE OF THE YOUNG CHIMNEY SWEEPER!

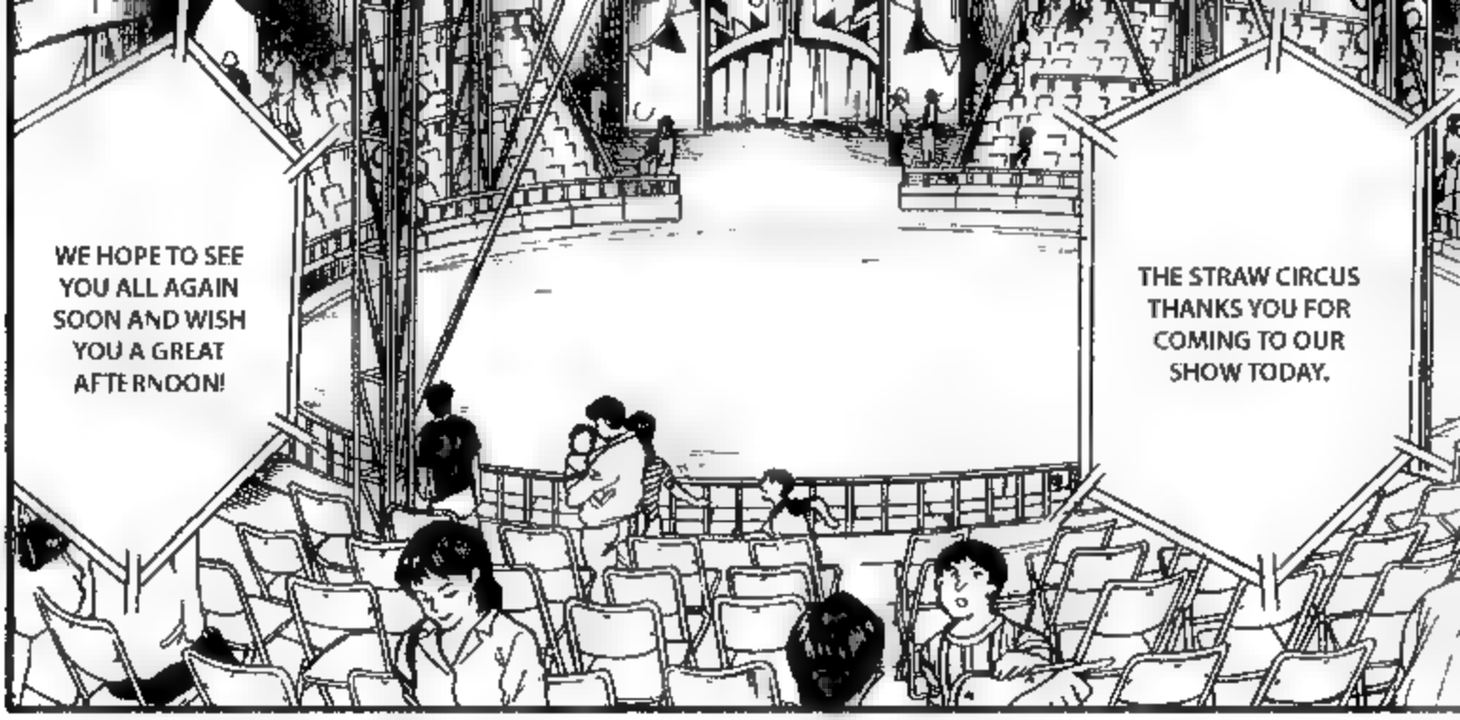
HOORAY!!!
HOURRA
BRAVO

HOURRA
LET'S CHEER ONCE AGAIN FOR THE BOY...
...WHO ACCEPTED TO PLAY THIS ROLE!
LOOK!
EVEN THE BODYGUARD ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR LOVE AND CONGRATULATES THEM!

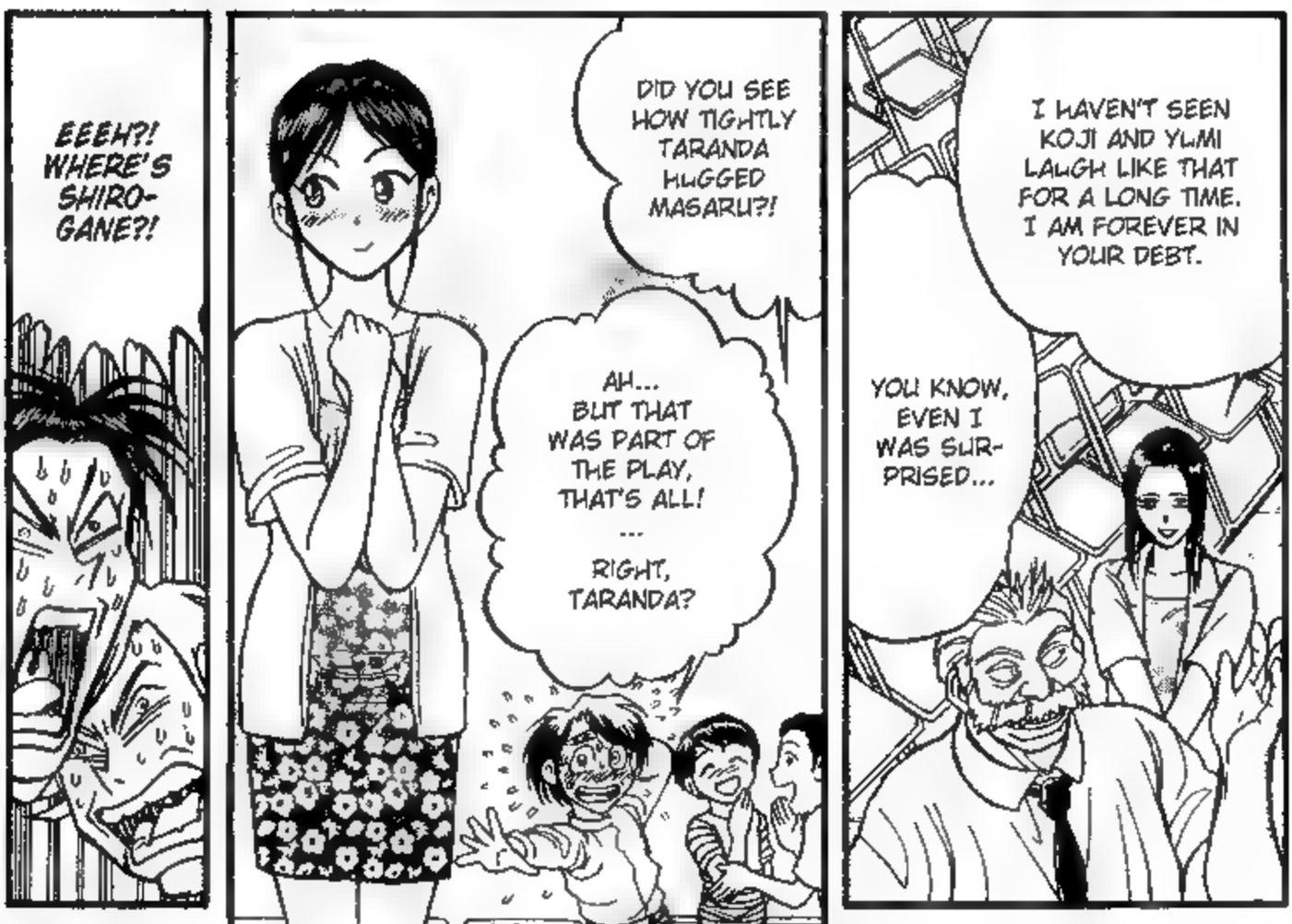
...SHIROGANE IS DEFINITELY ABLE TO LAUGH!
THIS MEANS THAT WHILE BEING IN A CIRCUS...
BRAVO

MADE UP AS A CLOWN, SHE SMILED THROUGH THE WHOLE ACT...

SHIRO-GANE IS LAUGHING!


WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AGAIN SOON AND WISH YOU A GREAT AFTERNOON!
THE STRAW CIRCUS THANKS YOU FOR COMING TO OUR SHOW TODAY.

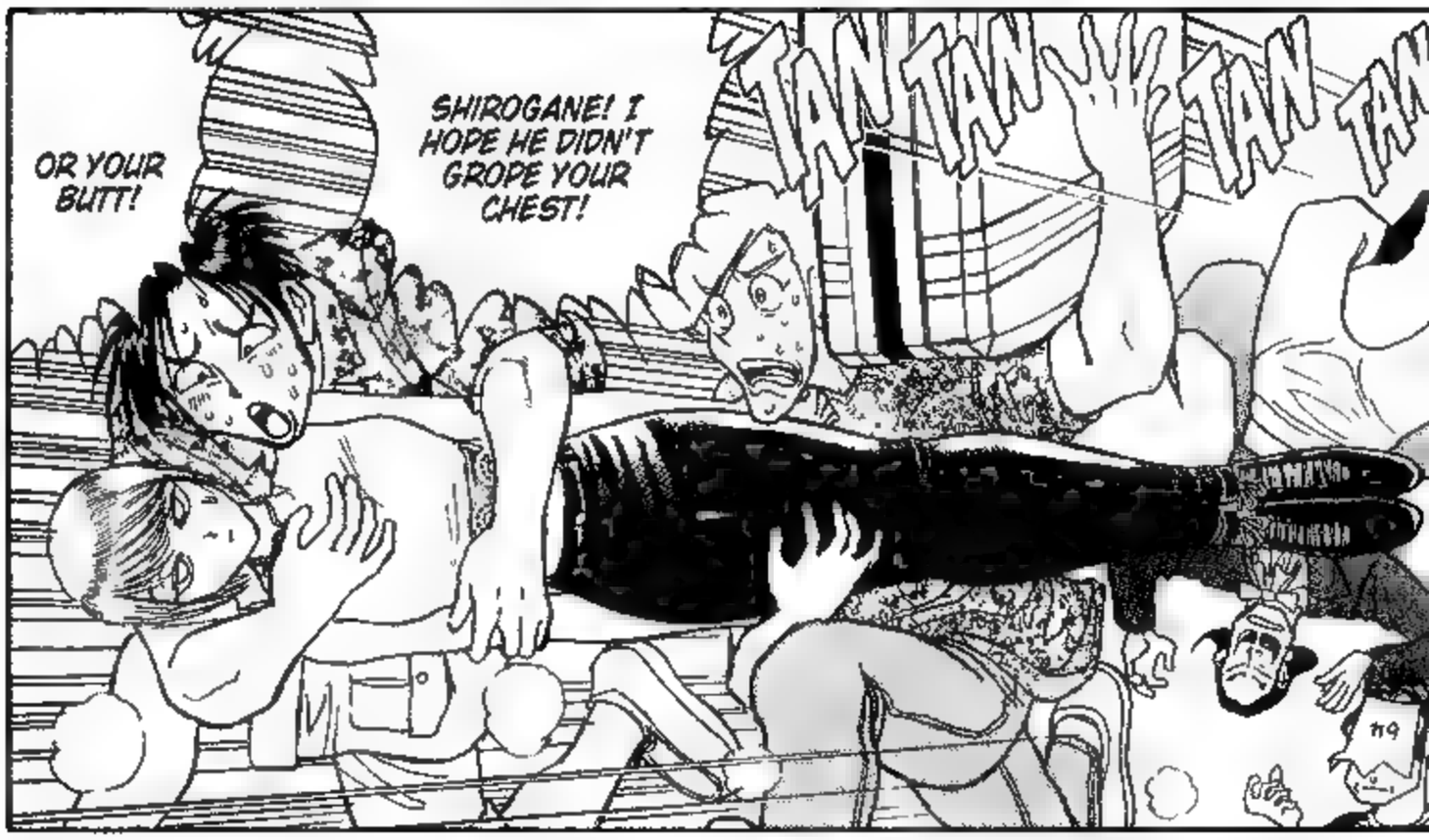
HE HE... I DIDN'T REALLY TRY TO BE FUNNY...
SO FUNNY!
HA HA! YOU HAD SUCH A FUNNY FACE, MASARU!


EEEH?! WHERE'S SHIRO-GANE?!
DID YOU SEE HOW TIGHTLY TARANDA HUGGED MASARU?!
AH... BUT THAT WAS PART OF THE PLAY, THAT'S ALL!
...
RIGHT, TARANDA?
I HAVEN'T SEEN KOJI AND YUMI LAUGH LIKE THAT FOR A LONG TIME. I AM FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT.
YOU KNOW, EVEN I WAS SUR-PRISED...

DA-DAH
SOME-ONE IS GONNA GET HURT!
NORI, HIRO. LET'S GET GOING.
SHIRO-GANE! TELL ME YOU LOVE ME!
CAN I HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER?
COME ON, SHIROGANE! COME WITH US! IF YOU STAY WITH THE NAKAMACHIS, YOU'LL NEVER GET TO DO SUCH GREAT ACTS AGAIN!
YOUR COMIC NUMBER WAS SO PERFECT!
BESIDES, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT YOU COULD MANIPULATE SUCH A HUGE PUPPET! YOU COULD MAKE IT A TOTALLY SEPARATE ACT!
YOU CAN TELL ME, SHIROGANE... DEEP DOWN, I'M ALWAYS FIRST IN YOUR HEART, RIGHT?

DON

PAAA
119


OR YOUR BUTT!
SHIROGANE! I HOPE HE DIDN'T GROPE YOUR CHEST!
TAN TAN TAN
TAN
119

GLING
FAREWELL, SHIROGANE. THIS IS ONLY TILL WE MEET AGAIN.

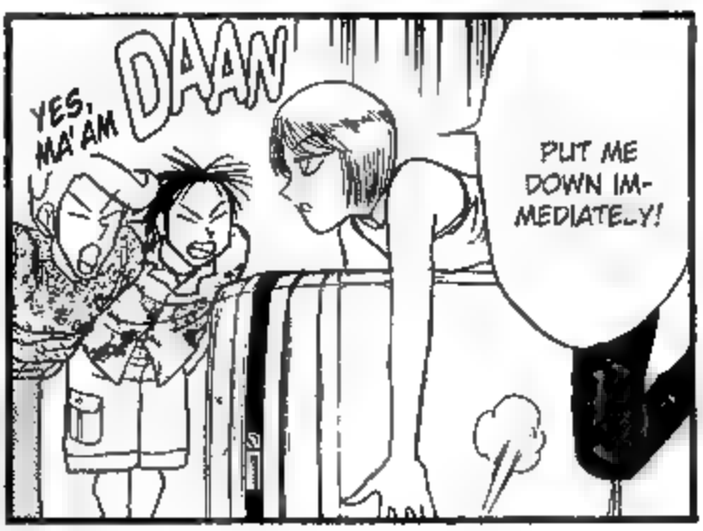
"THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. SHIROGANE"
Thank you for your kindness
Shirogane

HEY! WE'RE NOT PERVERTS!
MY BEAU-TIFUL SHI-ROGANE IS LEAVING...

HM?

WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM OUTSIDE, MOMMY.
PERFECT. CAN WE GO NOW?
ALRIGHT! WE GOT HER BACK SAFELY WITH US!
DON
DON

. I AM SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU COME ONSTAGE.
YOUNG MASTER ...


YES, MA'AM
DAAN
PUT ME DOWN IM-MEDIATELY!

IN FACT... I...
I HAVE TO CONFESS THAT... I WAS NOT LAUGH-ING...
... NOT REALLY ...

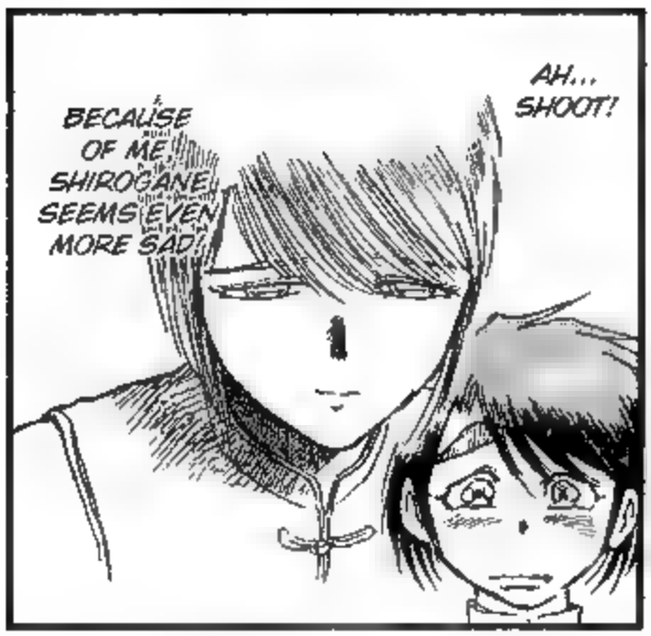
BUT I DID IT...
...BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT THE CIRCUS IS REALLY ABOUT

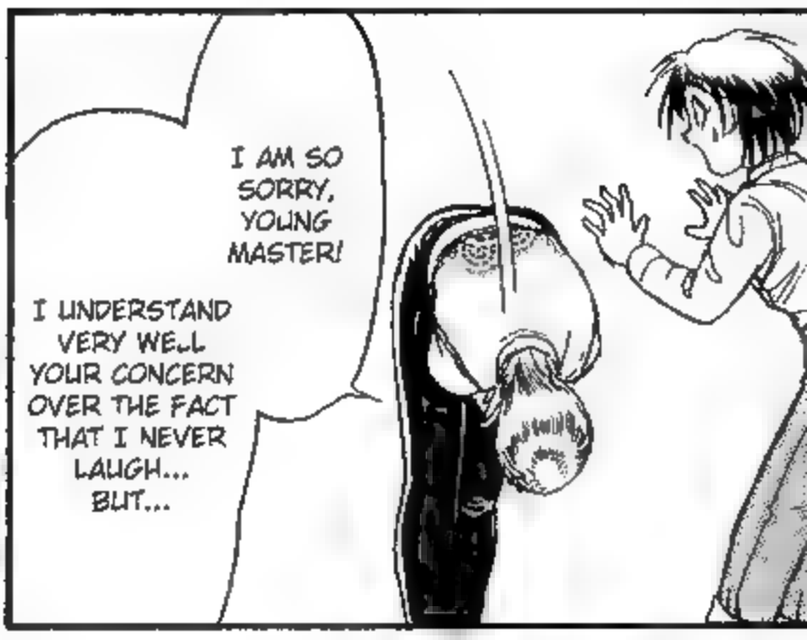
I KNOW, AND I FOUND IT INCREDIBLE! ALSO...
. I GOT TO SEE YOU SMILE DURING THE WHOLE ACT! I'D NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE!

YOU KNOW... A CIRCUS ARTIST MUST LEARN THE WAYS OF BODY LANGUAGE... AND ALSO MUST BE CAPABLE TO FEIGN ALL EMOTIONS ON THEIR FACES...

WHAT?

SO... SHIROGANE WASN'T LAUGHING. IT WAS JUST PART OF THE ACT...
AH... I UNDERSTAND...


AH... SHOOT!
BECAUSE OF ME, SHIROGANE SEEMS EVEN MORE SAD!


I AM SO SORRY, YOUNG MASTER!
I UNDERSTAND VERY WELL YOUR CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT I NEVER LAUGH... BUT...

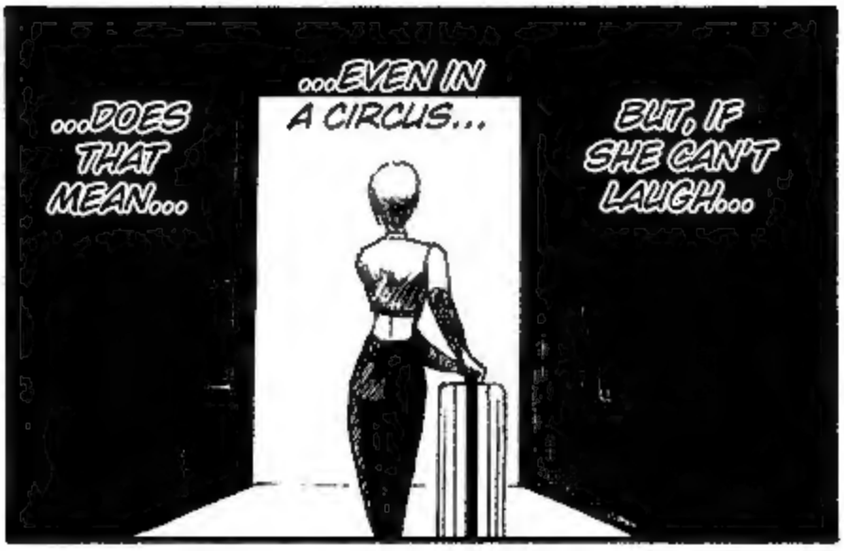
... I'D LIKE FOR HER TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF A BIT MORE.
...SINCE SHIROGANE HAS ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE TO PROTECT ME...

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, BUT...
IT'S OKAY, SHIROGANE!

UM..

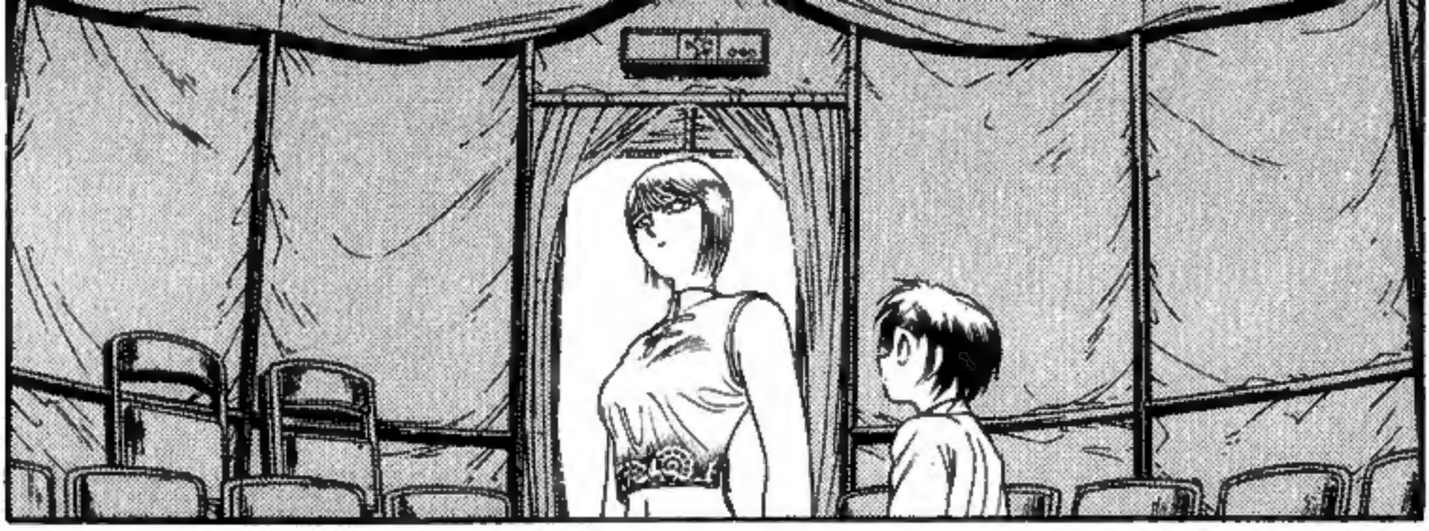
...TAKING CHARGE OF HER LIFE!
I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE HER HAPPY, DOING WHATEVER SHE WANTS TO DO...

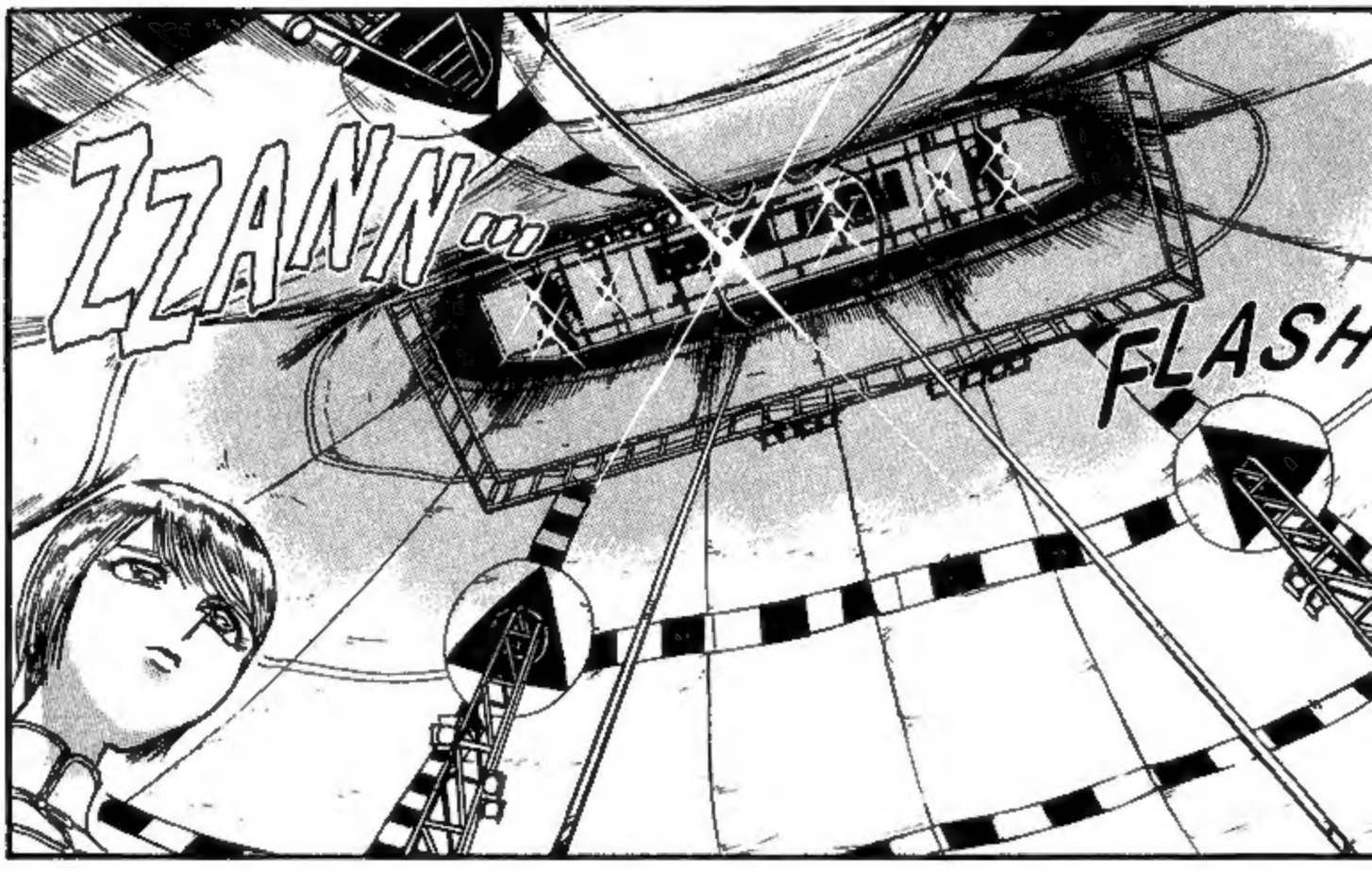
SHIROGANE, WAIT...
...THAT SHE NEVER WILL?!


...DOES THAT MEAN...
...EVEN IN A CIRCUS...
BUT, IF SHE CAN'T LAUGH...

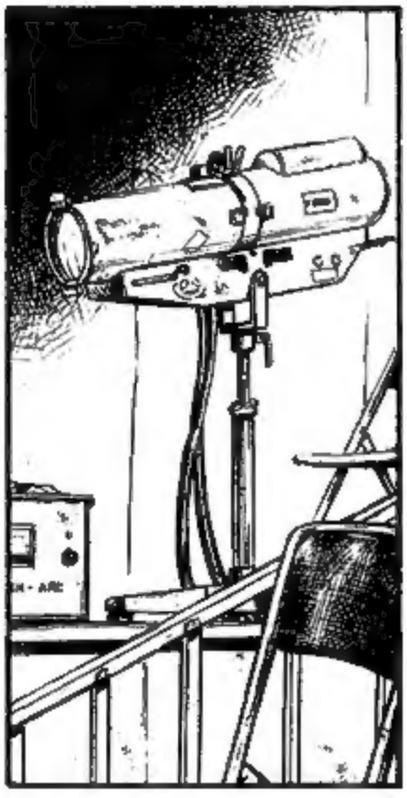
SO... HOW WAS IT FOR YOU? DID YOU HAVE FUN?
TELL ME THE TRUTH!
SHIROGANE!
BUT FOR YOU, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU'VE ACTED LIKE THAT, RIGHT?

I HAD A GREAT TIME PLAYING IN YOUR ACT...
YES, YOUNG MASTER?




ZZANN…
FLASH

SAH



HMM...

...THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH!
BUT TO ME...

I WILL DO IT AGAIN... ONE DAY...
YES, I DID...
SHE CAN'T TELL ME ANY MORE ...

TODAY I DECIDED SOMETHING!
NARUMI!
ONE DAY, UNDER THIS BIG TOP...
IN FRONT OF A CROWD LIKE TODAY...
I'LL INTRODUCE THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS!